



# Foundational Public Health Services

**Healthy. Vital. Everyone.** Everywhere.

## Crucial help for rural counties

### The Governmental Public Health System Partners:



*Protecting Washington communities from the threats of communicable disease is one of our state's Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS).*

### Adams County Health Department

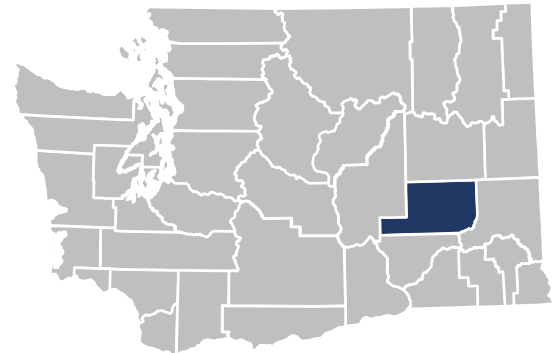
The almost 20,000 residents of Adams County rely on their public health department to quickly respond to communicable disease cases, as well as to provide a broad range of assistance from maintaining vital records to protecting drinking water. In this rural county, public health staff provide crucial—if sometimes thinly stretched—resources for their communities.

A multi-contact communicable disease investigation can swamp a small public health department, but a timely response is critical when the public's health is at risk. This was tested in real time when Adams County faced an active tuberculosis (TB) case in July, 2018. Fortunately, thanks to FPHS funding, they were better prepared to effectively manage the large contact investigation and protect the public.

The department had used the FPHS funds to provide essential training for staff, bring caseloads up to date, and further develop partnerships with other counties. These activities all helped build their capacity to keep their communities safe last July.

Unchecked, communicable disease outbreaks can devastate any community, large or small. But smaller counties often face additional challenges because there are fewer services and resources.

Public health provides an important safety net in Adams County. The FPHS funding enabled the public health department to increase their ability to quickly respond to communicable disease cases including TB, sexually transmitted diseases, foodborne illness and other threats, helping to protect both the health of residents and the economic vitality of the county.



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